



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 288, August 22, 2025

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

This bulletin is available via email subscription only. See

<http://www.arrl.org/bulletins> to subscribe. (The online archive is no longer updated.)

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

23 Aug 2025 1710 GMT
 SFI: 136 SN: 50
 A-Index: 8
 K-Index: 1
 X-Ray: C1.9
 304A: 136.6 @ SEM
 Ptn Flx: 38
 Elc Flx: 7570
 Aurora: 1/n=1.99
 Mag (Bz): 0.1
 Solar Wind: 456.0
 Geomag Field VR QUIET
 Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.n0nbh.com>
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DX News

4U/ITU, ITU HQ. Special callsign **4UØITU** continues to mark the 160th anniversary of the ITU until the **end of 2025**, operating from the 4U1ITU club station.

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0905)

5B, CYPRUS. Paul, GØKPH, is QRV as **5B4ARQ** from Paphos (AS-004) **for 3 weeks**. Activity is on the HF bands using some CW, SSB, and mostly FT8. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 7, 2025] (0808-0829)

5H, TANZANIA. Chas, NK8O will be QRV as **5H3DX** from **August 31st to September 21st**. Activity will be in his spare time on 30 to 10 meters using CW, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 34 August 21, 2025] (0822-0926)

5H, TANZANIA. Alex, SQ9UM is QRV as **5H1UM** until **August 24th**. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL to [SQ9UM](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0829)

8R, GUYANA. Aldir, PY1SAD, is QRV as **8R1TM** until **September 23rd**. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. This includes some Satellite activity as well. QSL to [PY1SAD](#), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0926)

9A, CROATIA. Special callsign **9A169TESLA** will be used until **December 31st** in celebration of the 169th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla (July 10, 1856). QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW, ClubLog, and QRZ Logbook.

-[425DXN # 1786 July 26, 2025] (0725-0829)

9M2, WEST MALAYSIA. In celebration of Malaysia's national holiday, special event stations **9M25MA**, **9M25MB**, **9M25MC**, **9M25MD**, **9M25MJ**, **9M25MK**, **9M25MM**, **9M25MN**, **9M25MP**, **9M25MR**, **9M25MT**, and **9M25MW** are QRV until **September 30th**. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-1003)

9M2, WEST MALAYSIA. Celebrating the 68th anniversary of Malaysia's independence (August 31, 1957), members of Terengganu DX (West Malaysia) will be active as **9M1957M** from **August 1st to September 30th**. They will operate SSB, CW and FT8 on 80-10 meters. QSL direct to [9M2RDX](#) (see <https://www.qrz.com/db/9M1957M>).

-[425DXN # 1785 July 19, 2025] (0801-1003)

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA. In celebration of Malaysia's national holiday, special event stations **9M25MS** and **9M25MQ** are QRV from Sabah and Sarawak, respectively until **September 30th**. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-1003)

A9, BAHRAIN. Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society celebrate the IARU centenary with special call sign **A91ØØIARU**, and the 75th anniversary of IARU Region 1 with special call sign **A975IARU**. They are active 6 to 10 days each month. QSL via [EC6DX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0905)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Alex, DL2ALY, is currently QRV as **DPØGVN** from the Neumayer III station (AN-16). QSL via [DL4BBH](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0905)

CEØ, EASTER I. Jorge, **CEØYHF**, remains on the air until the end of August. QSL direct to: Jorge Jana, Alcoy 2270, Parque Alcantara, P.O. Box 36, Puente Alto, 8206219 Santiago, Chile

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0829)

CN, MOROCCO. Michel, F5LRL will be QRV as **CN2DX** near Kenitra from **June 25th to August 30th**. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8 generally during his early morning (0500-1000 UTC) and evening (1800-2200 UTC) hours. QSL via [F5LRL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 25 June 19, 2025] (0620-0829)

CU, AZORES. Watch for **CU6/EA3QP** to be on the air from Pico Island (EU-175) from **August 21st to 28th**. QRV on HF on SSB and digital modes.

-[DXNL # 2472 August 20, 2025] (0822-0829)

CX, URUGUAY. Special event callsign **CW2ØØDI** is for members of Radio Club Uruguayo to celebrate the bicentennial of Uruguayan declaration of independence (August 25, 1825) from **August 20th to September 18th**. QSL via the bureau, LoTW, or direct to [CX1AA](#).

-[425DXN # 1789 August 16, 2025] (0815-0919)

D4, CAPE VERDE. Special station **D45ØICV** celebrates the 50th anniversary of Cape Verde's independence until the end of the year. QSL via [IK2NCJ](#).

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0905)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of August 22, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. VKØM	Macquarie Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. KP5	Desecheo Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. VKØH	Heard Island
9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. FT/T	Tromelin Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. EZ	Turkmenistan

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF August 22, 2025] (0822-0912)

E6, NIUE. Gavin, ZL3GAV, is QRV as **E6SP until August 31st**. QSL to [ZL3GAV](https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 34 August 21, 2025] (0822-0905)

EA8, CANARY IS. Leigh, MØKZT, will be QRV as **EA8/MØKZT** from **August 18th to 25th** from Corralejo, POTA ES-0216. QSL to [MØKZT](https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0829)

ES, ESTONIA. Jacek, **SP5APW/ES** will be active from Kihnu Island (ES8, EU-178) on **August 26th-29th**. He will focus on 6 meters, but "I don't rule HF activity out", he says. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS.

-[425DXN # 1790 August 23, 2025] (0822-0829)

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. David, F1SXC and Herve, F4DPA will be active as **TX14TOM** from Tai'arapu-Est, Tahiti (OC-046), French Polynesia on **August 17th-31st**. See <https://log-et-qsl.associations-radioamateurs.org/wp/> for log search and eQSL. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1790 August 23, 2025] (0822-0905)

H4Ø, TEMOTU PROVINCE. Lance, W7GJ will be active as **H4ØGJ** from Pigeon Island (OC-065), Temotu Province on **August 8th-27th**. This will be a 6m EME DXpedition, using Q65-60A in the "Q65 Pileup" mode. For detailed information & instructions, see <https://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/H40%202025.htm>. "When I am not aimed up at the moon, I will be monitoring 50.313 on FT8 mode", Lance says. "Please take the initiative to call my direction when you think there may be ionospheric propagation. If propagation is good and there are many callers, I may switch to FT4 or FT8 F/H on a frequency to be announced". Bookmark <https://www.facebook.com/lance.collister/> for updates. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [W7GJ](https://www.facebook.com/lance.collister/).

-[425DXN # 1779 June 7, 2025] (0808-0829)

HL, SOUTH KOREA. Special event station **HL8ØV** will be QRV during the **month of August** to mark the 80th anniversary of South Korea's liberation. QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 31 July 31, 2025] (0801-0829)

I, ITALY. ARI section Fidenza honors Marconi's memory with the following callsigns during 2025:

II4LDMA in August; **II4RADS** in September; **II4WLTX** in October; **II4EACC** in November; **II4TJTB** in December. QSL via [IQ4FE](https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php) and LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0905)

LA, NORWAY. The special event callsign **LA1ØØA** commemorates the first amateur radio contact between Norway and the USA in 1925. On November 25, 1925 Johannes Diesen (LA1A) conducted that first QSO with U1YB at Dartmouth College (NH), USA.

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0905)

OH, FINLAND. Special station **OH1ØØIARU** (ops OH2BCI, OH2BH, OH2KI, OH2KM, OH2KW, OH3JR, OH5BM, OH5BQ, and OH7GGX) continues to celebrate IARU's centenary **until the end of 2025**. QSL via bureau or direct via [OH3JR](https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php).

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0905)

OHØ, ALAND IS. A group of operators will be QRV as **OGØC** from **August 17th to 24th**. Activity will be on 160 meters to 70 centimeters using CW, SSB, JT65, MSK144, FT8, and FT4. QSL direct to [OH5CW](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0829)

OJØ, MARKET REEF. Markus, OH1MN will be active as **OJØMN** from Market Reef (EU-053) on **August 25th-30th**. He will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on the HF bands, 6 and 4 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to Club Log. QSL via [OH1MN](#).

-[425DXN # 1789 August 16, 2025] (0822-0829)

PY, BRAZIL. Special station **PW2PF** (operators Renato/PY2TIM, Lupercio/PU2TNT, Marcelo/PY2MDF, Marcelo/PU2USM, Ronaldo/PS8RV, Alex/PY2WAS, and Marcelo/PY2AE) activates the Porto Ferreira State Park (WWFF PYFF-0362) on **August 16th, 17th, 23rd, and 24th**.

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0829)

SM, SWEDEN. The radio club **SK3GK** commemorates the first radio broadcast from the city Gävle in 1925 **until the end of the year**. QSL via bureau.

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0905)

SV5, DODECANESE. Darrell, N3JWJ, will be QRV as **SV5/N3JWJ** from Rhodes Island on **August 17th to 25th**. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0829)

T3Ø, WEST KIRIBATI. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as **T3ØTTT** from North Tarawa **until September 8th**. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4 with up to 10 stations active. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 25 June 19, 2025] (0620-0905)

TJ, CAMEROON. Darek, SP3GDH is QRV as **TJ1GD** while here working on humanitarian missions. He has been active in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using FT8. This includes some activity on Satellite QO-100. QSL via [SP3EOL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 7, 2025] (0808-0829)

TY, BENIN. Antonio, IK7WUL plans to be QRV as **TY2AA** from **August 18th to September 7th**. Activity will be in his spare time on 20 meters using SSB. QSL via [I8KHC](#), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0905)

UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Special event station **R1ØØGQ** is QRV **until September 7th** to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the city of Shchelkovo. QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 34 August 21, 2025] (0822-0912)

UAØ, ASIATIC RUSSIA. Anton, RGØC, is currently operating from Ptichiy (Bird Island; (AS-044) RR-13-30) as **RGØC/p** on 20m CW with QRP power. The duration of his stay depends on weather conditions. An additional one-day trip to Malyy Shantar in the same group is also possible. QSL via [RN3RQ](#).

-[DXNL # 2471 August 13, 2025] (0815-0905)

VE, CANADA. Celebrating the International Amateur Radio Union's 100th anniversary, members of the Atlantic Coast DX & Contest Group will be active as **CG9IARU** **throughout August**. They will conduct special activations of Parks on the Air (POTA), World Wide Flora & Fauna (WWFF), and Canadian Historical Sites On the Air locations, alongside other commemorative events. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/CG9IARU> for more information. QSL via [VE9CF](#).

-[425DXN # 1786 July 26, 2025] (0801-0829)

VK, AUSTRALIA. Special event station **VI1ØØSIG** is QRV **until September 3rd** to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Australian Army Signal Corps. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 34 August 21, 2025] (0822-0905)

VK9L, LORD HOWE I. Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as **VK2/SP9FIH** from Lord Howe Island (OC-004) from **August 27th to September 13th**. Plans are to operate SSB and FT8 (FH/SF) on 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. See <https://vk9.dxpedititions.org/> for more information. Reminder: according to

the Australian Communications and Media Authority's updated "Amateur Radio Call Sign Policy", VK9 prefixed callsigns can be used only by operators located in an Australian External Territory other than the Antarctic. Lord Howe Island is part of New South Wales, hence the use of VK2/homecall. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS (direct requests for QSL will be uploaded to LoTW within few days, bureau requests will be uploaded after 12 months).

-[425DXN # 1787 August 2, 2025] (0822-0912)

XE, MEXICO. Special call sign **4A2MAX** will be QRV during the **month of August** in remembrance of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW or [EA5GL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 31 July 31, 2025] (0801-0829)

XU, CAMBODIA. Franco, IUØCRW, is QRV as **XU7AKP** from Kampong Thom. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and occasionally the digital mode Olivia. QSL via [IUØCRW](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 7, 2025] (0808-0829)

XW, LAOS. Simon, G6JFY, is QRV as **XWØLP** from Luang Prabang. Activity is currently on 12 and 10 meters. He may soon be active on 40 meters as well. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 34 August 21, 2025] (0822-0912)

YJ, VANUATU. Chris, VK2YUS, is QRV as **YJØCA** from Port Vila **until August 30th**. Activity is mainly from 2100 to 1000z on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to [VK2YUS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 34 August 21, 2025] (0822-0829)

YO, ROMANIA. Members of the Federatia Romana de Radioamatorism (FRR) will be active as **YO2Ø25ENESCU** from **August 24th to September 21st**, during the George Enescu International Festival and Competition. Held in Bucharest since 1958, the Festival honors and celebrates the memory, the music and the personality of Romanian composer, pianist, violinist and conductor George Enescu (1881-1955). Certificates and eQSL will be available on <https://hamlog.online/>.

-[425DXN # 1789 August 16, 2025] (0822-0926)

YO, ROMANIA. Special callsign **YR16ØØVT** will be used by members of Radio Club YO6KGS until **March 31, 2026**, to popularize Via Transilvanica, the long-distance trail (1600 km) used for hiking, cycling and horse riding that crosses Romania. More information can be found on

<https://www.grz.com/db/YR1600VT>. QSL via eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1788 August 9, 2025] (0808-0905)

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN. Diya, YI1DZ is back in Juba and QRV as **Z81D** mostly during his weekends. Activity is on various HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL via [OM3JW](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0905)

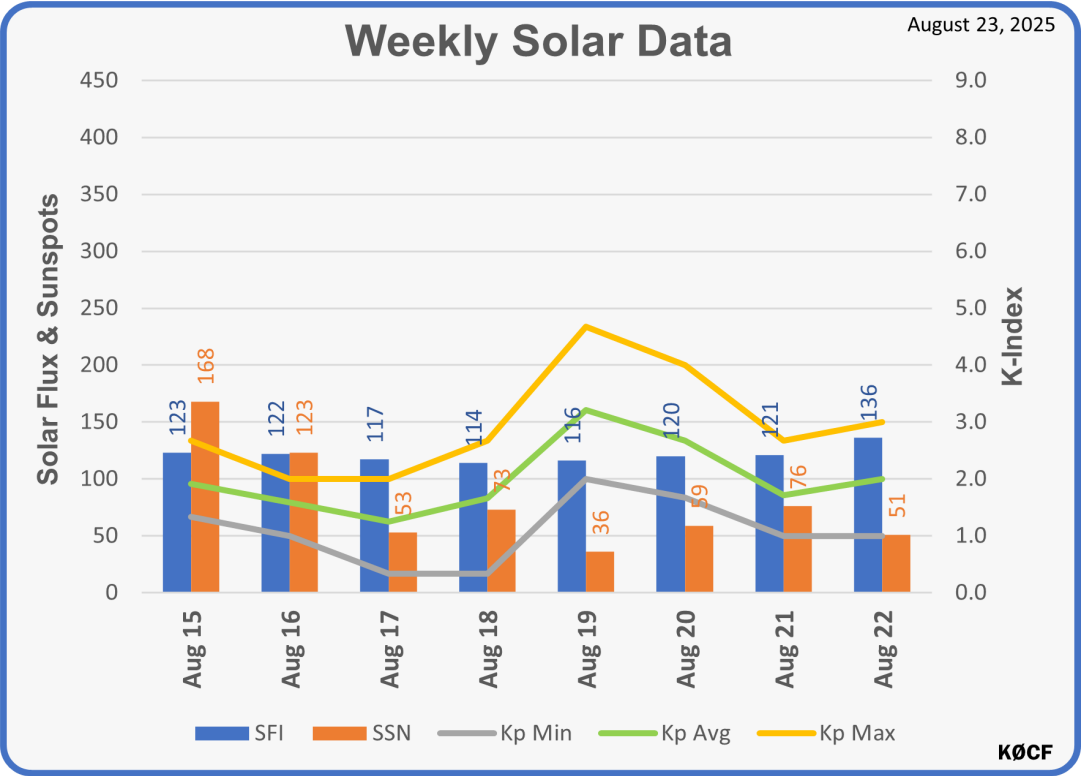
ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Special callsign **ZL1ØØC** celebrates the centenary of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART), which was formed on August 16, 1926. The callsign is valid **until August 6, 2026**. QSL via the bureau and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1789 August 16, 2025] (0815-0905)

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. Special event stations **ZS1ØØSARL**, **ZS6SRL**, and **ZS9HQ** are QRV **until the end of 2025** to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the South African Radio League. QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 August 14, 2025] (0815-0905)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

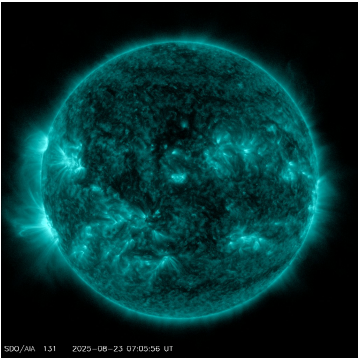
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, August 15th through yesterday, August 22nd.

The average solar flux was 121, down 20 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 136 on Friday, August 22nd, following a low of 114 on August 18th.

The average sunspot count was 67, down by 89 from last week, peaking at 168 on Friday, August 15th followed by a weekly low of 36 on August 19th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.0 with a maximum of 4.7 on Tuesday, August 19th, indicating generally quiet geomagnetic conditions. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 3.0 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since August 16th has been quiet with only 2 major flares, the largest of which was an M 1.7 event on Friday, August 22nd.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, August 16th through 1329 UTC, August 23rd.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Aug 22	1851	M 1.7
2	Aug 19	0439	M 1.1

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Aug 23	15%	1%	138
Aug 24	20%	1%	145
Aug 25	25%	5%	140

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on August 18, 2025).

Date	Flux	Kp
Aug 23	120	2
Aug 24	125	2
Aug 25	120	3
Aug 26	120	3

Date	Flux	Kp
Aug 27	125	3
Aug 28	125	4
Aug 29	130	3
Aug 30	130	3

Date	Flux	Kp
Aug 31	140	3
Sep 1	150	3
Sep 2	150	2
Sep 3	140	2

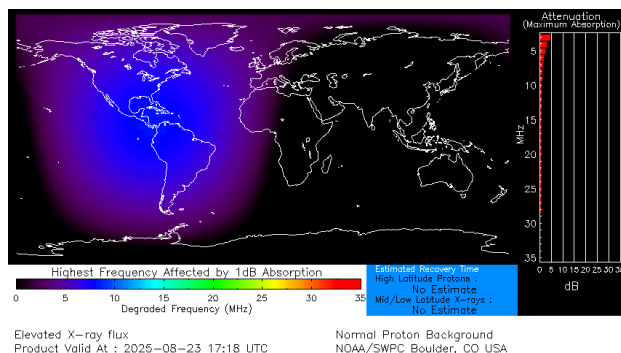
Geomagnetic Storm Watch

The action started yesterday. Minor [G1](#)-class geomagnetic storms broke out on **Aug. 19th** when Earth entered a fast-moving stream of solar wind. The action could intensify today. NOAA forecasters expect a CME to graze Earth's magnetic field on **Aug. 20th**, potentially boosting storm levels to [G2](#). High-latitude sky watchers should remain alert for auroras after local nightfall.

(Copyright © [SpaceWeather.com](#) August 20, 2025. Republished by permission.)

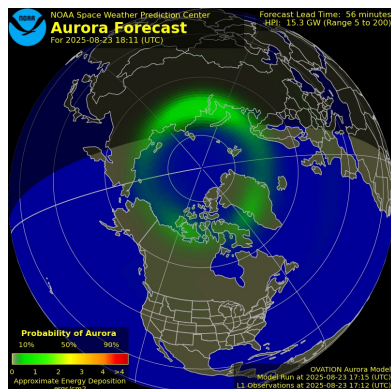
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by "back-scatter" and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.gsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
Ohio QSO Party	Aug 23	1600Z	Aug 24	0400Z	Rules
YO DX HF Contest	Aug 30	1200Z	Aug 31	1200Z	Rules
World Wide Digi DX Contest	Aug 30	1200Z	Aug 31	1200Z	Rules
Kansas QSO Party	Aug 30	1400Z	Aug 31	2000Z	Rules
Tennessee QSO Party	Sep 7	1700Z	Sep 8	0300Z	Rules
ARRL September VHF Contest	Sep 13	1800Z	Sep 15	0300Z	Rules
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	Sep 20	1200Z	Sep 21	1200Z	Rules
New Jersey QSO Party	Sep 20	1400Z	Sep 21	0159Z	Rules
Texas QSO Party	Sep 20	1400Z	Sep 21	2000Z	Rules
Wisconsin Parks on the Air	Sep 20	1600Z	Sep 20	2300Z	Rules
Washington State Salmon Run	Sep 20	1600Z	Sep 21	2400Z	Rules

New Hampshire QSO Party	Sep 20	1600Z	Sep 21	2200Z	Rules
North American Sprint, RTTY	Sep 21	0000Z	Sep 21	0359Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Sep 27	0000Z	Sep 28	2400Z	Rules
Maine QSO Party	Sep 27	1200Z	Sep 28	1200Z	Rules
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Oct 4	0600Z	Oct 5	0600Z	Rules
California QSO Party	Oct 4	1600Z	Oct 5	2200Z	Rules
QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	Oct 11	0000Z	Oct 11	2359Z	Rules
Makrothen RTTY Contest	Oct 11	0000Z	Oct 12	1559Z	Rules
Nevada QSO Party	Oct 11	0300Z	Oct 12	2100Z	Rules
Oceania DX Contest, CW	Oct 11	0600Z	Oct 12	0600Z	Rules
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	Oct 11	1200Z	Oct 12	1200Z	Rules
Arizona QSO Party	Oct 11	1500Z	Oct 12	0500Z	Rules
Pennsylvania QSO Party	Oct 11	1600Z	Oct 12	0400Z	Rules
	Oct 12	1300Z	Oct 12	2200Z	
South Dakota QSO Party	Oct 11	1800Z	Oct 12	1800Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	Oct 18	0001Z	Oct 19	2359Z	Rules
New York QSO Party	Oct 18	1400Z	Oct 19	0200Z	Rules
Worked All Germany Contest	Oct 18	1500Z	Oct 19	1459Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Oct 18	1500Z	Oct 19	1500Z	Rules
Illinois QSO Party	Oct 19	1700Z	Oct 20	0100Z	Rules
ARRL School Club Roundup	Oct 20	1300Z	Oct 24	2359Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Oct 25	0000Z	Oct 26	2400Z	Rules
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	Nov 1	2100Z	Nov 3	0300Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Nov 8	0000Z	Nov 9	2359Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	Nov 8	0001Z	Nov 9	2359Z	Rules
JIDX Phone Contest	Nov 8	0700Z	Nov 9	1300Z	Rules
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	Nov 8	1200Z	Nov 9	1200Z	Rules
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Nov 15	2100Z	Nov 17	0300Z	Rules
LZ DX Contest	Nov 22	1200Z	Nov 23	1200Z	Rules
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Nov 23	0000Z	Nov 23	0400Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]